



# 2014 MIDDLE SCHOOL ANNUAL ESSAY CONTEST



## “THE WAY IT’S GOING TO BE:” Planning For Victory (or Success) at All Costs

*“This operation is not being planned with any alternatives. This operation is planned as a victory, and that’s the way it’s going to be. We’re going down there, and we’re throwing everything we have into it, and we’re going to make it a success.”*

- GENERAL DWIGHT EISENHOWER, JANUARY 1944

On June 6, 2014, the world will celebrate the 70th Anniversary of D-Day, the Allied invasion to liberate Europe from Nazi rule. To commemorate the importance of this event, The National WWII Museum asks you to think about a time in your life where you have had to make important plans for success in spite of uncertainty.



The leaders of the Supreme Headquarters Allied Expeditionary Force (SHAEF)

For your essay, please address the following questions: **How did you plan to achieve success in the face of the unknown?** How did you handle any challenges to reach your goal? How does your story connect to those of other people, past and present, who have had to face and overcome tremendous odds to obtain their goal? Use WWII as a starting point and base your essay in part on America’s involvement in WWII. But don’t stop in the past. Use specific examples from your own experiences that support your ideas. **This is NOT a research paper.** Your essay will be judged foremost for its originality, clarity of expression and adherence to contest theme, as well as its historical accuracy, grammar, spelling and punctuation. Museum staff will read and evaluate entries.

### REQUIREMENTS:

Contest is open to **all students in grades 5-8** in the United States, US territories and military bases. Your essay must be **500 words or less**. Only one essay per student may be submitted. The Museum will accept the first 500 properly formatted entries only. The website will indicate when we are approaching 500 submitted essays.

Essays must be submitted through [nationalww2museum.org/essaycontests](http://nationalww2museum.org/essaycontests) by **March 28, 2014, 5:00 pm CST**.

### AWARDS:

The Museum will select **one winning essay from each grade**. Winners will receive a **\$250 prize**. Three honorable mentions from each grade will receive a WWII Museum baseball cap. Winning essays will be posted on The National WWII Museum’s website, along with honorable mentions.

[www.nationalww2museum.org/essaycontests](http://www.nationalww2museum.org/essaycontests)